

SENATE BILL 2919

By Overbey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for students with disabilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-4-9__.

(a) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, a student with a documented disability who does not otherwise qualify for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this chapter shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Meet the requirements of § 49-4-905;

(3) Complete high school in a Tennessee high school in accordance with the requirements of the student's individualized education program (IEP) with a high school diploma, high school certificate, a special education diploma, a transition certificate, or an IEP certificate;

(4) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after completing high school; and

(5) Apply for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

(b) A student shall be eligible for the award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this section at the end of the semester in which the student

has attempted a total of twelve (12) semester hours if the student has a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75. A student who does not achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twelve (12) semester hours shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship if the student achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twenty-four (24) semester hours. A student who does not have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twelve (12) semester hours or twenty-four (24) semester hours shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship if the student meets the requirements of § 49-4-911(a)(1) at the end of a subsequent semester at which continuing eligibility for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship is reviewed under § 49-4-911(a)(1) or the requirements of § 49-4-911(a)(2) at the end of any semester after the student has attempted forty-eight (48) or more semester hours.

(c) To continue to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, the student shall meet the applicable requirements of § 49-4-911.

(d) A student may receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this section until meeting the applicable requirements of § 49-4-913(b) or (c). Students receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this section may apply under § 49-4-913(e) for an extension of the five-year limitation on receipt of the scholarship, if, because of the student's documented medical disability, the student can only attend an eligible postsecondary institution part-time.

(e) If a student qualifies for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this section at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twelve (12) semester hours, then the student may apply for a retroactive award of the scholarship for the semester of attendance immediately preceding the award of the scholarship. If a student qualifies for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship

under this section at the end of a semester in which the student has attempted a total of twenty-four (24) or more semester hours, then the student may apply for a retroactive award of the scholarship for two (2) semesters of attendance immediately preceding the award of the scholarship. No other retroactive award of the scholarship shall be made under this subsection.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students with disabilities seeking postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for 2012-2013 academic year and academic years thereafter.